

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended herein by deleting a phthalic acid derivative from the definition of the compound having a weight average molecular weight of 3000 or less and having at least one carboxylic acid group.

No new matter is presented.

I. Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4-5, 7-10, 13-14 and 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Aoshima et al (EP 1 235 107 A1) in view of Shimada et al (U. S. 2001/0036598 A1).

Claims 6 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Aoshima et al in view of Shimada et al and further in view of Oshima.

Claim 1 is amended herein to recite that the compound having a weight average molecular weight of 3000 or less and having at least one carboxylic acid group is selected from the group consisting of a trimellitic acid derivative, pyromellitic acid derivative, a succinic acid derivative, and a glycine derivative.

The Examiner admits that Aoshima et al does not teach a compound having a weight average molecular weight of 3000 or less and having at least one carboxylic acid group.

Shimada et al fails to teach a compound having a weight average molecular weight of 3000 or less and having at least one carboxylic acid group is selected from the group consisting of a trimellitic acid derivative, pyromellitic acid derivative, a succinic acid derivative, and a glycine derivative.

Thus, even if Aoshima et al and Shimada et al were combined the present invention would not have been achieved.

Oshima does not remedy the deficiencies of Aoshima and Shimada et al.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

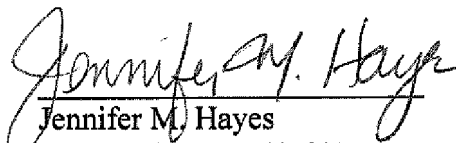
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Date: June 20, 2007